

## REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1 to 26 were presented for examination. Claims 1 to 26 were rejected on the basis of applicant's description of the prior art.

However, in making the above rejection, the office did not take issue with the fact, as argued by applicant in its last response, that the prior art does not show maca in cookies or maca incorporated in products with egg whites, including bread and pasta. As noted in the specification, egg whites have a surprising effect when used with maca. In contrast to the way that dough, such as wheat flour dough reacts when egg whites are substituted for water, in the case of maca products egg whites improve elasticity thus improving rheology during flattening, and/or extrusion and/or cutting of pasta. Likewise, improve elasticity improves yeast rise architecture and the resultant bread quality.

Clearly these aspects of the invention are not remotely taught by the alleged prior art. Moreover, the same represent significant improvements in breads and pasta. In the presently submits a claims, these aspects of the invention are clearly recited. Accordingly, the presently pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

With respect to the incorporation by reference, the applicants have been made aware of the subject documents in the case of their work, but have no present specific recollection of their contents, except that the same are not relevant to examination of the claims. It is believed that the incorporation by reference is correct as the same may be useful to readers of the patent not of ordinary skill in the art, while reducing the bulk of the application.

In view of the above amendments and the discussion relating thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, he is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Anthony H. Handal

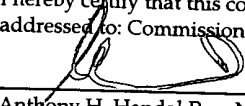
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 4, 2003

  
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